

Community Update | December 2023

Newell Highway Flood Mitigation – West Wyalong to Forbes



Australian Government



Various field investigations were carried out at Marsden in November and December 2023

The Australian and NSW Governments have committed to flood mitigation works on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.

A total funding commitment of \$141 million has been confirmed for the Newell Highway Flood Mitigation – West Wyalong to Forbes (WW2F) project following independent reviews of the Australian Government and the NSW Government infrastructure programs.

In November 2023, the Australian Government announced a \$1 billion total investment in the Newell Highway corridor as part of the outcomes of the Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program. This investment includes the \$50 million federal funding previously committed to flood mitigation work on the Newell Highway between West Wyalong and Forbes.

The NSW Government has confirmed a contribution of \$91 million to the WW2F project following its Strategic Infrastructure Review.

The primary objective of the project is to reduce the amount of time the Newell Highway is closed between West Wyalong and Forbes during and after flood events.

Transport for NSW (Transport) will prioritise flood mitigation around Marsden as flood studies have shown that this area of the highway floods first, has the deepest water across the road and stays closed the longest.

Transport is assessing the scope of flood mitigation works that can be delivered with the available funding to achieve the best possible value and outcomes.

Field investigations at Marsden

Motorists travelling between West Wyalong and Forbes in November and December may have seen Transport staff and contractors in the road corridor at Marsden carrying out various field investigations for the WW2F project.

The work included geotechnical investigations, water sampling, biodiversity studies, noise monitoring, traffic counts, utility surveys, heritage studies, and culvert cleaning followed by closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection of the culverts.

The data collected from these field investigations will be used to inform the design and environmental assessment of the project.

Transport is committed to minimising the impact on the environment by restoring each site to as close to its original condition as possible when the studies are complete.

Please reach out to the project team by calling **1800 741 636** or emailing **newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au** if you would like further information about the field investigations.

Our geotechnical scientist shared these photos showing the process of the roadside geotechnical investigations at Marsden.



Traffic control is set up



Equipment is mobilised to site



An excavator is used to dig a test pit so the existing road base can be examined

Geotechnical investigations pave the way

Transport designs road pavements to have a 20-to-40-year lifespan. Geotechnical investigations are essential to pavement design, especially in flood-prone areas like Marsden.

Geotechnical investigations are used to determine the characteristics of the soils beneath a planned road. Our investigations at Marsden included visually assessing soil conditions, measuring the strength of soils, and observing whether factors such as ground water, bed rock or contaminants were present along the proposed alignment.

The team recorded all their observations and measurements and took representative soil samples for follow up laboratory testing.

The data will be combined and analysed to inform the most appropriate pavement to use at Marsden to allow the highway to remain open to traffic for longer during flood events, to reduce maintenance costs, and to meet the required design life.

Staying safe at Transport worksites

To ensure the safety of our staff, contractors and road users during site investigations and road work, Transport uses traffic control including stop/slow, reduced speed limits and closed lanes.

Too often people are injured due to drivers failing to follow traffic control measures at worksites.

Please follow these tips to stay safe around our worksites:

- Be alert, road conditions change and traffic control can be on any part of the network.
- Slow down, drive carefully when approaching worksites and be prepared to stop.
- Follow the signs and instructions of our traffic controllers.
- Be courteous and patient, we will get you through the worksite as quickly and safely as possible.
- Stay in your vehicle, you could be struck by traffic from behind or coming the other way.
- Continue to obey all road rules. If you are stopped at traffic control, it is still an offence to touch your mobile phone.



The strength of the subgrade (bottom layer of the pavement) is tested and measurements are recorded



Samples are collected for laboratory testing

 **3,332 incidents** involving roadside workers in NSW
4 fatalities

60 seriously injured between 2019 and 2023

 **~100 near misses**

at Transport worksites in one month
51 failure to slow down at a worksite

30 incorrect or unsafe driving behaviour

10 collisions/contact with the worksite

~9 other incidents placing workers at risk

between 20 May and 22 June 2021

Source: Transport for NSW crash data



The site is repaired so it is safe for use and heavy patching will be applied during routine maintenance



Concept design and Review of Environmental Factors

Transport has engaged professional services company Stantec to develop the concept design and prepare the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the WW2F project.

A concept design is developed in sufficient detail to allow investigations, environmental assessment and preliminary costings to be prepared for a project.

An REF assesses the potential social and environmental impacts of a project and identifies ways to minimise these impacts.

The WW2F REF will include the following topics:

-  Hydrology and flooding
-  Soils and surface water
-  Groundwater
-  Traffic and transport
-  Noise and vibration
-  Biodiversity
-  Aboriginal heritage
-  Non-Aboriginal heritage

Contact us

Please contact the project team if you have any questions or would like more information:



1800 741 636



newell.upgrade@transport.nsw.gov.au



nswroads.work/ww2f



If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call us on **1800 741 636**.

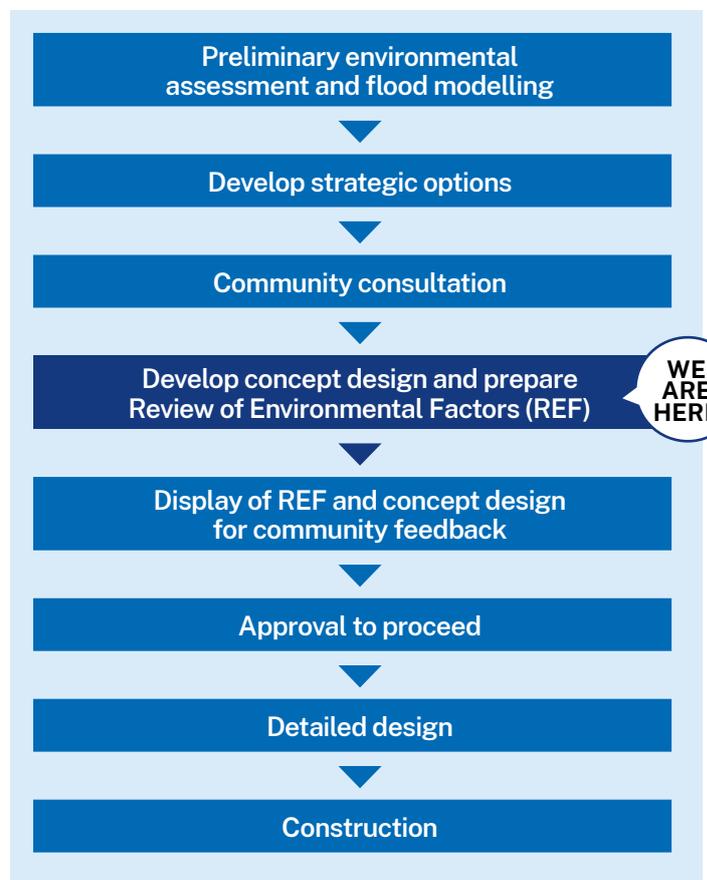
Next steps

Transport will use the findings from the field investigations to continue developing the WW2F concept design and preparing the REF.

Once prepared, Transport will publicly display the concept design and REF for community and stakeholder feedback before submitting the project for approval.

We will continue to update the community as work on the project progresses.

Please don't hesitate to contact the project team if you have questions, concerns or suggestions about the project.



December 2023

Privacy Transport for NSW ("TfNSW") is subject to the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 ("PIIP Act") which requires that we comply with the Information Privacy Principles set out in the PIIP Act. All information in correspondence is collected for the sole purpose of assisting in the delivery of this project. The information received, including names and addresses of respondents, may be published in subsequent documents unless a clear indication is given in the correspondence that all or part of that information is not to be published. Otherwise TfNSW will only disclose your personal information, without your consent, if authorised by the law. Your personal information will be held by TfNSW at 51-55 Currajong Street Parkes NSW 2870. You have the right to access and correct the information if you believe that it is incorrect.